

He became the first person to use a 900 meter ski jump. For the next 35 years, Rolf competed and won various medals and awards. In 1994, Rolf competed in the United States National Competition and finished in third place.

Then in 1995 tragedy struck. Many people believed that Rolf would never walk again, much less ski.

While Rolf was training in Breckenridge, Colorado, he was going down a run and struck a mogul unexpectedly. The impact was to Rolf's neck and back and he laid in the snow, unable to move. Ski Patrol units moved quickly to stabilize Rolf and to try to minimize the injuries and transport him to a medical facility.

Rolf was air-lifted to Denver Swedish Hospital. The verdict was a spinal cord injury that was initially paralyzing. Rolf was unable to move any of his extremities and the doctors decided that surgery was needed to relieve pressure to the spinal cord. It was unclear to the surgeon whether or not Rolf would receive any motor functions after the surgery. The surgery was a success, but at first there were no signs that it would help Rolf recover any mobility in his legs or arms. Day by day, however, Rolf began to get physical movements back in his extremities.

Rolf was transferred to Craig Hospital where specialists could concentrate on helping him recover. Rolf was convinced, in his heart, that he would not only walk again, but that he would continue his love, skiing. Just a few short weeks after the accident, Rolf was released from the hospital and he returned to Breckenridge to continue physical therapy. He worked hard and miraculously, in a relatively short time, Rolf was skiing again.

Just fourteen months after his accident, Rolf entered in the USSA Masters Competition. He did not place in that competition, but just participating was winning for him. The members of the USSA Masters presented Rolf with an honorary medal.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer tribute to Rolf Funk and congratulate him on a miraculous recovery, his patience, strength and faith. Rolf's resilience and undying passion for life is an inspiration to us all.

SIKH BURNS SELF TO DEATH TO PROTEST POLICE BRUTALITY IN INDIA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to hear that Mandeep Pal Singh Sodhi, a 27-year-old Sikh man, burned himself to death in front of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly building. His self-immolation was reported in the Hindustan Times on January 11. He was protesting police brutality against his family. Mandeep Pal Singh Sodhi's brothers were detained and brutalized by police. Their mother was promised an inquiry, but nothing happened.

Recently, the Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab, led by Hindu

human rights activist Ram Narayan Kumar, issued a preliminary report that included the names and addresses of 838 Sikhs who were picked up, tortured, murdered, and secretly disposed of by the police. According to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and by human rights groups, the Indian government has killed over a quarter of a million Sikhs since 1984.

It is not just Sikhs who have suffered this kind of oppression. The Indian government has victimized Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and others. Groups associated with the ruling BJP have burned down Christian churches and prayer halls. Allies of the government have murdered nuns, priests, and missionaries.

The self-immolation of Mandeep Pal Singh Sodhi should serve as a wake-up call to the country that proudly proclaims itself "the world's largest democracy." It should serve as a call to India to begin living up to the democratic principles that it proclaims. India must stop this police brutality and release its political prisoners. It must hold a free and fair internationally-supervised plebiscite on the issue of independence in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and wherever else people within India are struggling for freedom. Until then, the U.S. should stop its aid to India and encourage it to act like the democratic country it claims to be.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the Hindustan Times article into the RECORD.

[From the Hindustan Times, Jan. 11, 2000]

SELF IMMOLATION IN FRONT OF UP ASSEMBLY

(By Bhupendra Pandey)

LUCKNOW, JANUARY 10—Motorists, pedestrians and policemen watched in shock as a young man, allegedly because of police harassment, immolated himself on the busy road opposite the Vidhan Sabha on Monday afternoon.

The 27-year-old youth, identified as Mandeep Pal Singh Sodhi, a resident of Krishna Nagar, suffered 70 per cent burns and died on way to hospital.

Later, the police inspector posted at Krishna Nagar was sent to the police lines for illegally detaining the deceased's brother and harassing his family members. Chief Minister Ram Prakash Gupta has announced a financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to the dependents of the victim. The District Magistrate of Lucknow has directed the ADM, City, to probe the incident.

According to eyewitnesses, Mandeep got off a bus near the Royal Hotel intersection and doused himself with kerosene. Then, he went towards the Assembly and set himself on fire and started running. Soon, he was transformed into a ball of fire.

After he collapsed and lay writhing on the road, three policemen tried feebly to rescue him. Others also joined them, but by then Mandeep had already suffered excessive burns.

Thereafter, he was taken to the nearby Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Hospital from where he was referred to the KGMC. But he succumbed to burn injuries on the way.

Initially, policemen were unable to identify the youth but later found a slip of paper tucked in his shoes. According to it, Mandeep ran a small chemists shop outside a private nursing home in Krishna Nagar.

Meanwhile, Mandeep's mother, Mrs. Manpreet Kaur, has accused the police of forcing her son to commit suicide. "Fed up with police harassment, my son committed suicide," she said.

According to her, her husband, Surendra Pal Singh, who died five years ago, ran a flourishing transport business. But it ran into tough times after his death. She said that her tale of woes began a year ago when the SO of Sarojini Nagar raided her house and detained her two sons, Yashpal and Inderpal, without specifying the charges. Later, they were booked in a case of a motorcycle theft. In March last year, the two were again booked in a case of another motorcycle theft and jailed. The two brothers were also booked under the Gangster Act.

Mrs. Kaur said that she had earlier met then Chief Minister Kalyan Singh and also the Circle Officer of Sarojini Nagar. She had been assured of an inquiry into the matter. But nothing happened. In fact, Yashpal was picked again on Saturday night in connection with a recent case of motorcycle theft in Krishna Nagar.

Today, Mrs. Kaur decided to complain to the District Magistrate and despite Mandeep's request to her to stay at home, she left for the DM's office. Soon after Mandeep too boarded a bus for the Vidhan Sabha.

Mrs. Kaur learnt about her son's immolation in the afternoon when she came home after meeting the DM. Yashpal was released by the police following the DM's intervention.

STEM CELLS MAY BE THE KEY TO CURING PARKINSON'S AND MANY OTHER DISEASES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to allow Federal Funding of human pluripotent stem cell research to help us further understand Parkinson's disease and other medical conditions. I am asking for no specific amount of money, nor to direct disease-specific research. I am only asking that Federal money be allowed to be used to utilize the next best chance science has, to not only treat, but to cure, debilitating and life threatening illnesses that afflict millions of Americans.

Many people have been confusing human pluripotent stem cell research with human embryo research. Stem cells are not embryos. There is a ban on the use of Federal funds for human embryo research in the United States. Stem cells cannot develop into a complete human being, and therefore, under the law, they are not embryos.

Stem cells are a type of cell that can be turned into almost any type of cell or tissue in the body. With further research, these cells may be used as "replacement" cells and tissues to treat many diseases including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's disease and others. Stem cell research holds hope of one day being able to treat brain injury, spinal cord injury, and stroke for which there is currently no treatment available. And they may solve the problem of the body's reaction to foreign tissue, resulting in dramatic improvements in the treatment of a number of life-threatening conditions, such as burns and kidney failure, for which transplantation is currently used.

The resolution discusses Parkinson's disease in particular for many reasons. My family has been personally affected by this devastating illness and I am proud to serve as co-chair of the Congressional Working Group on Parkinson's Disease. However, it is science that makes the best argument to lead with this disease. With all that is already known about Parkinson's disease, it is believed that with Federal funds and stem cell research it is very possible that Parkinson's disease could not only be treatable, but curable within as little as five years!

Dr. Gerald D. Fischback, the Director of National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, in testimony last year to the Senate said, "I concur that we are close to solving—and I mean the word 'solving'—Parkinson's Disease. I hesitate to put an actual year number on it. I think, with all the intensive effort, with a little bit of skill and luck, five to ten years is not unrealistic. We will do everything possible to reduce that below five years. I would not rule that out."

Mr. Speaker, here is why that is possible. Parkinson's disease is a progressive degenerative brain disease which kills a specialized and vital type of brain cell, a cell which produces the substance dopamine, that is essential for normal movement and balance. The loss of these dopamine-producing cells causes symptoms, including slowness and paucity of movement, tremor, stiffness, and difficulty walking and balancing, which makes the sufferer unable to carry out the normal activities of daily living. In 30% of the cases those symptoms include dementia. As the disease progresses, it inflicts horrific physical, emotional, and financial burdens on the patient and family, requiring the caregiver to assist in the activities of daily living, and may eventually lead to placement in a nursing home until death.

With further research into stem cells, scientists will be able to "reprogram" the stem cells into the dopamine-producing cells which are lost in Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's disease affects at least one million Americans. Fifty-thousand are diagnosed each year and for every one diagnosed, two who have Parkinson's disease are not diagnosed. It is alarming to think that two million Americans with Parkinson's disease are undiagnosed.

Parkinson's disease costs the Federal Government approximately \$10 billion in healthcare costs, and on average, the cost per patient is \$5,000 per year. As a society, we spend \$15 billion a year on Parkinson's disease and that is only in direct costs for treatments that only bring temporary relief.

Building on the technology developed from research on Parkinson's disease makes treatments and even cures possible for many conditions. These include Alzheimer's, diabetes, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's, brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, and problems with the body's reaction to foreign tissue. It may even provide for safer and more effective ways to test drugs without experimenting on humans and animals. We cannot allow the opportunities afforded us by stem cell research to go untapped!

The National Institutes of Health has proposed guidelines to human stem cell research

to address the legal and ethical issues surrounding this particular type of research. It is being approached in a responsible way to utilize the technology while being sensitive to the ethical questions raised. The National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) even felt they could have gone further and is very supportive of allowing this type of research to continue with Federal funding. The NBAC points out that Federally funding this research will allow Federal oversight to ensure this type of research continues ethically. And finally, the American people support stem cell research as shown by a nationwide survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International last year that found that 74% of those polled favored funding of stem cell research by NIH.

Federal funds are crucial to allow scientists to proceed with stem cell research and to exploit fully this novel, innovative, and groundbreaking technology.

HONORING JOHN MUMMA ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man who has demonstrated deep care for his country and community.

John Mumma will be retiring after acting as a public servant for over 27 years. John, Division of Wildlife Director, decided that he needed to spend more time with his family. John realized that he was spending all of his time at work and that his family was paying the price.

After serving the Forest Service for over 27 years, John will be sorely missed. He has had a long and distinguished career in public service. John became the Director of the Division of Wildlife in November of 1995. Just after he was named director, the division faced the daunting task of completely revamping its management structure. He had the ability to lead the agency through that massive project and many great successes during his distinguished tenure.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of John's service with the Division of Wildlife over the last 27 years. The State of Colorado will be hard pressed to find another leader like him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent on Monday, January 31, and consequently missed a recorded vote on H.R. 2130. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 3.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ELEANOR NADOBNY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful lady, Ms. Eleanor Nadobny, of Bay City, MI, on the occasion of her retirement from Local 362 United Auto Workers. Both in character and spirit, Eleanor is an inspiration to those around her and will be sorely missed by her boss and her co-workers.

Eleanor was born on October 2, 1920, in my home town of Bay City, and has lived and contributed to our community her entire life. Like so many of our neighbors, her father immigrated from Poland, having made his way from Ellis Island to eventually raise his family in Michigan.

Eleanor has been a member of the Saint Stanislaus Church in Bay City most of her life. She is much loved by parishioners for her faithful presence and contributions to the Church.

On September 6, 1941, Eleanor married Mr. Arthur John Nadobny. They had three children—Barbara, Carolyn, who later married Gary Ciaciuch, and Arthur, who married Janie Nalazek. And in a sad turn of fate, her husband passed away on February 16, 1960. Eleanor became a widow with three children to support.

At that time, she was working from her home as a photograph colorist. For each photograph that she hand colored, she was paid only \$1.25. And from that, she had to buy her paints, her brushes, and support her family.

On March 26, 1967, she was hired by Local 362 as a bookkeeper. At that time, Local 362 represented some 3,400 members of GM-Powertrain. She has worked for those members, and their sons and daughters for the past 33 years. Those who have ever asked for Eleanor's help on a problem, or her advice on a pressing issue, know that she is, indeed, a treasure.

Eleanor's retirement from Local 362 is a great loss for the union, but her family is sure to benefit. She is known to be a great cook, and makes a homemade dinner for her family every Sunday. On that day, her eight grandchildren—Susan and Mark Rosebrock, Michelle Ciaciuch, Mark and Lisa Ciaciuch, Chad Nadobny, Kari Nadobny, and Scott Clerc—and her great grandchild Brooke Rosebrock, sit down for a wonderful meal. Eleanor's Polish meatballs and golabki are particularly famous.

I'm sure Eleanor will have much happiness during her retirement, and hope that she continues cooking, traveling, and enjoying one of her favorite activities, going to Branson, MO, to attend the great performances there.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join me today in honoring Ms. Eleanor Nadobny for her fine work these many years on behalf of Local 362. Please join me, on the occasion of Eleanor's retirement, in wishing her many more wonderful years with her family, and saying thank you for the many years she has invested on behalf of the working men and women of GM-Powertrain.